

September 10, 1964

Dr. L. Edgar Lee, Jr.
Assistant Director
The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund
for Medical Research
333 Cedar Street
New Haven 11, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Lee:

This is in response to your letter of August 31 concerning Dr. Haruo Ozeki.

I can give what is mainly a second-hand impression, since I have had only very little personal contact with him. He certainly did prove himself a very imaginative and intelligent worker in his studies both with Dr. Demerec at Cold Spring Harbor and with my very close colleague, Dr. Bruce Stocker, in London. I have also visited him briefly in Tokyo, and found that he was relatively well set up there by comparison with other institutions in Japan, although, as hardly needs be said, still suffering from serious financial stringencies. I think it must be said that the very first rank of Japanese scientists in this field have tended to migrate to the United States, with a few exceptions. Of those who have chosen to remain in Japan, Ozeki certainly belongs in the top echelon.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

P.S. I put these remarks in a postscript because they really have nothing to do with Ozeki's specific qualifications. Your inquiry about Ozeki reminds me that Japan is a country that you probably should give special emphasis to in your grants program, since there is probably a greater disproportion there between enthusiastic and well-trained people in contrast to the facilities with they must work than in any other country. Furthermore, there are signs that the country is just beginning to reach the level of economic affluence and interest in science to furnish the necessary support, and a few prototypes in very basic fields might help a great deal to achieve a suitable orientation of the over-all scientific program as it develops. I would by no means wish to downgrade Ozeki in

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this regard, for he is a very worthy fellow, but there is one place where institutional support could go a very long way, and that is the Institute for Molecular Biology and Genetics ~~that~~ Kikkawa is struggling to establish and maintain at Osaka Medical School. Perhaps you have already heard from them; if you have not, I believe it would be a mark of considerable altruism to find some informal way of establishing a contact with Dr. Kikkawa.